



City of Renton - 1055 South Grady Way  
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## **Mayor Kathy Keolker Delivers 2007 Budget Proposal to City Council**

**Moving Renton Forward - Budget focuses on basic services, public safety, economic growth and community resources**

RENTON: Renton Mayor Kathy Keolker delivered her 2007 proposed budget to the Renton City Council on Monday, October 23, 2006. The budget represents an ambitious capital improvement implementation plan, and invests in basic services, public safety, economic development, neighborhoods and human services.

“This is a time to focus on the city’s core responsibilities – such as police, emergency preparedness, utilities, parks and libraries – and doing those things well,” said Mayor Keolker. “This is a time to move Renton forward and encourage economic development, neighborhood revitalization and take care of those less fortunate.”

The 2007 budget totals \$210,861,478. Of that total, \$58,572,956 represents our capital budgets for 2007, which is 62% more than last year.

One of the largest budgets in recent years for capital improvement projects, it includes significant projects for transportation, parks and trails, the airport and utilities.

Highlights of the proposed budget include:

- **Increased Costs:** About 11% of the increase to the city’s operating budget is due to mandatory cost increases, including increases in the State’s retirement system, higher energy costs and increases in the cost of the emergency communication system.
- **Additional Staff Resources:** Adding six public safety employees – four in our Police Department and two in our Fire Department. The budget also recommends adding 12 employees in other areas of the city, for a total increase of 18 employees.
- **Public Safety:** Investing in various public safety programs such as enforcement of disabled parking spaces, off-duty police officers for community security, improving safety in intersections with automated traffic light enforcement cameras and a focus on downtown safety.

- Community: Expanding the aquatics program and additional funding of \$157,000 to meet the city's human service needs.
- Growth and Neighborhood Revitalization: Creating a strong identity for downtown through "way-finding" signage and studying ways to connect downtown to key areas in Renton.
- Capital Projects: For a total of almost \$62 million, an impressive list of capital projects focusing on transportation, the airport, parks and facilities, and utilities.

"Over the years, we had to make difficult decisions regarding the investments necessary to help turn Renton around," said Mayor Keolker. "While we are fortunate to be in the midst of a healthy economy, we have to make budget decisions to leverage our fiscal responsibility and to secure a future of growth and opportunity."

To view or read the mayor's budget message and for more information on the budget, please visit <http://rentonwa.gov>

